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NSC BRIEFING

26 October 1954

OFFSHORE ISLAND DEVELOPMENTS

I. Communist activity near Quemoys in past three weeks limited to sporadic shelling, reconnaissance raids by "frogmen."

A. [REDACTED]

B. Nationalists report troop-laden junks recently moved from mainland to Amoy Island. Movement may be intended merely to bolster Amoy defenses, but could be indication Communists staging for attack on Quemoys.

II. In Tachen area, Communist planes patrolling in increasing numbers (first Communist bombers spotted over island 16 October).

A. Communist troops reported landing on small undefended islands near Nationalist-held Pishan (40 miles SW of Tachens). This, plus presence Communist artillery on other nearby islands, suggests possible early attack.

B. Pishan defended by only 1,500 Nationalist guerrillas. Communists could easily take it, but island has little military value.

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- A. Location this force not known. May include conventional landing craft, possibly sub-marines.
- B. Imminent advent winter monsoons may deter Communist attack on either Tachens or Matsus, but this not certain. Weather clears for stretches of several days during winter months, and attacks could come at any time. As for Quemoys, bad weather there would probably handicap Nationalists more than Communists.